



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

“MEXICAN MAFIA” STREET GANG MEMBER ARRESTED IN HOUSTON *Public intoxication arrest leads to discovery of prior deportation*

HOUSTON, Texas — A member of the violent “Mexican Mafia” street gang was arrested Tuesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents after they received information from the Montgomery Sheriff’s Office.

Pedro Sanchez, 27, from Mexico, was previously deported in October 2002. He now faces criminal charges for re-entering the U.S., which is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. The case is pending review before the U.S. Attorney’s office for prosecution.

“Illegal aliens who seek to threaten the safety of our communities, such as members of violent street gangs, will be sought out and deported,” said Robert Rutt, special agent-in-charge for ICE in Houston. “Together, with our law enforcement partners and the assistance of the LESC, we will relentlessly pursue our mission to disrupt and dismantle these violent gangs one at a time.”

Montgomery County officers first arrested Sanchez for public intoxication Oct. 3. Officers then contacted the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), which identified that Sanchez was a deported felon. He was taken into custody to face his municipal charge, and then turned over to ICE authorities.

This arrest is the latest law enforcement action under Operation Community Shield, a nationwide ICE anti-gang initiative with the aim to disrupt, dismantle and assist in the criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE.

ICE kicked off Operation Community Shield in February by specifically targeting MS-13, which is one of the most violent street gangs in the country. ICE expanded the initiative in May to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members. To date, ICE has arrested more than 1,415 gang members under this national initiative.

ICE uses its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting gang-related narcotics smuggling, gun smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of illegally derived assets.

To report suspicious activity, members of the public should call the ICE hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.